

Service Date: November 25, 1992

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)	UTILITY DIVISION
of the Great Falls Gas Company for)	DOCKET NO. 92.10.57
a General Rate Increase.)	ORDER NO. 5665

PROCEDURAL ORDER

On November 2, 1992 the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) proposed an order setting forth the procedure to be followed in Docket No. 92.10.57. Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC) filed its comments requesting modification to the proposed procedural schedule in Paragraph 4. Counsel for Great Falls Gas Company (GFG or Applicant) had no objections to the modified schedule, which would set each proposed procedural date back approximately nine days, beginning with written discovery to the applicant due December 11, 1992. Upon service of this Order, Commission Staff will process future requests for amendments to the schedule in Paragraph 4 and extensions by issuance of a Notice of Staff Action.

Wherefore, the Commission issues the following order setting forth the procedural schedule in Docket No. 92.10.57.

1. In this order the term "parties" includes the Applicant, Great Falls Gas Company (Company, Applicant or GFG) and all intervenors. Individuals or entities are not parties unless they have been granted intervention by the Commission.

2. Copies of all pleadings, motions, discovery requests, prefiled testimony and briefs shall be filed with the Commission and served on all parties. Copies of all discovery responses shall be served on the Commission, on the party making the discovery requests and on all parties requesting the responses pursuant to paragraph 11 of this Order. Parties shall file an original and ten copies with the Commission of motions, testimony, briefs, and documents directed to the Commission. Service upon the parties shall be upon the parties' attorney of record, if applicable, and such other individuals as designated by the attorney of record.

3. All dates listed in the following schedule are mailing dates. Parties must mail all material by the most expeditious method available at reasonable cost. Parties should be considerate of the obligations imposed upon other parties by the following schedule. Parties may make arrangements among themselves for the use of express mail.

Schedule

4. Unless otherwise herein specified, the following schedule shall apply in Docket No. 92.10.57:

- (a) December 11, 1992: Final day for written discovery directed to GFG.
- (b) January 4, 1993: Final day for completion by GFG of all answers and responses to written discovery directed to GFG by other parties pursuant to paragraph 4(a).

- (c) January 29, 1993: Final day for completion and service upon GFG and other parties of the prepared testimony and exhibits of all parties except GFG.
- (d) February 12, 1993: Final day for written discovery directed to all parties by GFG; final day for intervenor discovery to parties other than GFG.
- (e) February 26, 1993: Final day for completion of answers by all parties to written discovery made pursuant to paragraph 4(d).
- (f) March 12, 1993: Final day for service of rebuttal testimony by GFG and testimony of other parties which is in rebuttal to testimony filed pursuant to paragraph 4(c).
- (g) March 26, 1993: Final day for written discovery directed to all parties that filed rebuttal testimony pursuant to paragraph 4(f); such discovery must be directly related to the rebuttal testimony.
- (h) April 9, 1993: Final day for completion of answers by all parties to discovery made pursuant to paragraph 4(g).
- (i) April 14, 1993: Final day to provide the Commission and parties with a witness list indicating the sequence that witnesses will be called by the parties at the hearing; final day for any party that intends to introduce evidence, data requests or other discovery as part of its basic case, to notify all parties of the specif-

ic data requests or other discovery it plans to so introduce.

(j) April 20, 1993: Opening day of hearing in Docket No. 92.10.17.

Intervention

5. Pursuant to ARM 38.2.2401 et seq., any person interested in and directly affected by the subject matter of the hearing may file a petition for intervention on or before November 20, 1992. The Commission will have published a timely legal notice in the appropriate local newspaper to allow adequate time for routine intervention. The petition to intervene shall contain the docket number(s), title of proceeding(s), and pleadings pursuant to Commission rules. A petition shall disclose the name and address of the petitioner; the name and address of petitioner's attorney, if any; a clear, concise statement of petitioner's direct and substantial interest in the proceeding; petitioner's position on the matter in controversy; a statement of the relief sought, if appropriate; and a request for general or special intervention, depending on whether the intervention will broaden the issues.

6. No petition to intervene shall be filed after November 20, 1992, except upon good cause shown why it was not timely filed and petitioner's covenant that the intervention, if granted, will not delay or prejudice the proceeding in the Docket. The Commission may consider petitions to intervene not already

allowed pursuant to ¶5 at hearing or prior to hearing and shall afford original parties an opportunity to be heard on late petitions for intervention upon request. By order or by oral ruling at the hearing, the Commission may grant late petitions to intervene if they disclose that petitioner has a substantial interest in the subject matter of the hearing, that participation will be in the public interest and that granting the intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in the proceeding. The Commission may dismiss an intervenor upon a subsequent demonstration that intervenor does not have a substantial interest in the proceeding or that the public interest will not be served by the intervention, upon notice and a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

Discovery

7. The term "discovery" as used in this order includes all forms of discovery authorized by the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, as well as informal "data requests." Parties should conduct their discovery as much as possible through the use of data requests.

8. Data requests submitted in this Docket must be numbered consecutively, beginning with the number one (1) for each party (e.g., MW-1; PSC-1; MCC-1). The heading of each data request must include a short description (approximately five words or less) explaining the subject of the data request. After the requisite description, data requests may include other identi-

fying information, such as the witness to whom the request is submitted, exhibit number and/or page number. Each party should attempt to keep descriptions consistent from one request to another.

9. Multi-part requests may be used. Each part of a multi-part request should be denoted by a lower case letter (a, b, c, d and e). Requests should be limited to five (a-e) without any sub-parts. If additional parts are necessary, additional requests should be made. A single part request should be denoted by the request number only.

10. Examples of acceptable and unacceptable data requests are as follows:

Acceptable Data Request Format

- PSC-500 RE: Purchased Gas Contracts
Witness - Burke, Page JBB-4, Lines 13-15.
- Please provide the origination and expiration date for each contract.
- PSC-501 RE: Bypass
Witness - Johnson, Page DAJ-14, Lines 11-14.
- a. What risks of bypass would be avoided by the shareholders as a result of the Company's proposed treatment?
 - b. What risks of bypass would be avoided by the ratepayers as a result of the Company's proposed treatment?
 - c. What risks of bypass would be shared by ratepayers and shareholders as a result of the Company's proposed treatment?

Unacceptable Data Request Formats

PSC-502 RE: Witness - Burke, Page. JBB-4, Lines 13-15.

1. Please provide the origination date for each contract.
2. Please provide the expiration date for each contract.

PSC-503 RE: Bypass
Witness - Johnson, Page DAJ-14, Lines 11-14.

- a. What risks of bypass would be avoided by the shareholders as a result of the Company's proposed treatment?

11. Written discovery and data request shall be served on all parties. Unless otherwise agreed, copies of answers to all written discovery and data requests will be served only on parties specifically requesting them and on the Commission. To obtain material requested of another in a data request, a party should inform that person to whom the request is directed. Here, the term "parties" includes the parties, their attorneys, and witnesses testifying on matters to which the answers relate. The Commission encourages all parties to scrutinize the material provided in this Docket before submitting data requests to limit unnecessary requests. The Commission further encourages parties to discuss preferred format for data requests and responses, consistent with paragraphs 9 and 10 of this Order.

12. Parties have five (5) days from receipt of written discovery or data requests, or until a response is due, whichever is less, to file objections to the request(s). Notice of objection shall be served upon the Commission and all parties of

record. The Commission may dispose of such objections by prompt ruling or may schedule arguments on the objections. Failure to object promptly will be deemed acceptance of the requests. Parties are encouraged to try to resolve concerns about requests before filing objections.

13. Any requesting party dissatisfied with the response to any written discovery or data request must serve its written objection(s) simultaneously upon the Commission and parties within five (5) days after receipt of such response. The Commission may dispose of such objection(s) by prompt ruling, or may schedule argument on the objection(s). The Commission will issue its order either sustaining or overruling the objection(s), and set a deadline for satisfactory response(s), if required. Parties are encouraged to try to resolve objections and obtain clarification to responses before resorting to objections before the Commission.

14. The Commission may allow parties to submit written discovery or data requests after their deadlines if good cause is shown for failure or inability to meet the deadline.

15. Unless excused by the Commission, failure by a party to answer data requests or other discovery from any party may result in:

- (a) An order prohibiting the disobedient party from supporting or opposing related claims, or from introducing related matters in evidence;

- (b) An order striking pleadings or testimony; staying further proceedings until the request is satisfied; or dismissing part or all of the action or proceeding.

16. Neither the Commission nor the Commission staff is a party to this proceeding. Commission staff has the rights and responsibilities of parties under Commission rule. See ARM 38.2.601(n). The Commission directs its staff to make every good faith effort to meet the discovery deadlines imposed on parties in this Order. However, Commission staff has the overriding responsibility to advise the Commission and the duty to ensure that all issues are thoroughly explored on the record. The Commission reserves the right for its staff to conduct discovery beyond the deadlines contained in this Order if issues are not adequately examined. Failure or inability to respond to this late discovery may result in a continuance of the scheduled hearing or in the reservation of certain issues for a future proceeding.

Testimony and Evidence

17. All proposed exhibits and prefiled written testimony shall be marked for identification before the hearing as arranged in advance with the court reporter.

18. At the hearing, prefiled direct, answer and rebuttal testimony will be adopted into the record, eliminating the need to retype prepared testimony into the transcript. Witnesses responsible for data responses shall be present at the hearing

and available to testify, unless they stipulate to moving their data responses into the record.

19. Parties shall make copies available of any documents not previously filed with the Commission which will be used for cross-examination, unless good cause is shown why copies are not available. Parties introducing data requests or other discovery must have copies of each request and response available at the hearing for the court reporter, each Commissioner, the Commission staff, and all parties. This last requirement may be waived if the documents to be introduced are bulky, or for other good cause, upon prior arrangements with the Commission and all parties.

20. By leave of the presiding officer, parties may be permitted to present "live" rebuttal testimony only in direct response to an issue raised for the first time in cross-examination or the testimony of a public witness.

21. The Commission may allow citizens and citizen groups to make statements without submitting prepared written testimony; in addition, if they have prepared written testimony, they may read it or have it adopted directly into the record.

22. The rules of evidence applicable in the District Courts of the State of Montana at the time of the hearing in this Docket will be used at the hearing.

Prehearing Motions and Conferences

23. Motions by any party, including motions to strike prefiled testimony and motions concerning any procedural matters shall be raised at the earliest possible time. Prehearing motions shall be submitted on briefs unless otherwise requested by a party. The party requesting oral argument shall notice it for hearing before the Commission.

24. The Commission may set a final Prehearing Conference to discuss settlement of any issues in the proceeding; simplification of issues; possibility of obtaining admissions of fact and documents; distribution and marking of written testimony and exhibits prior to the hearing; and other procedural matters as may aid in the disposition of the proceeding.

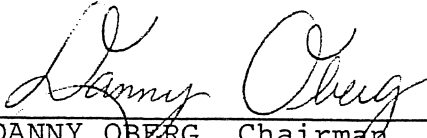
25. Nothing in this order shall be construed to limit the legally established right of the Commission or its staff to inspect the books and accounts of GFG at any time.


Witness Sequence List

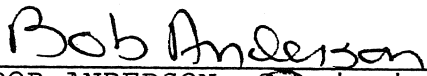
26. GFG shall provide the Commission with one witness list indicating the sequence that witnesses will be called by the parties at the hearing. It shall be the responsibility of the GFG and any other parties to this Docket to negotiate among themselves the witness sequence. GFG may inform the Commission and parties of the final sequence in writing or by telephone directed to the party's attorney of record, and Commission staff attorney.

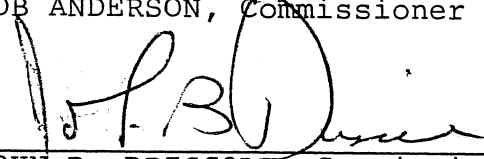
DONE AND DATED THIS 23rd day of November, 1992 by a vote of
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BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


DANNY OBERG, Chairman

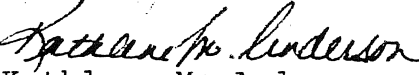

WALLACE W. "WALLY" MERCER, Vice Chairman


BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner


JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner


TED C. MACY, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)